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and for this crime, I sentenced myself to one week at hard labor in Auburn Prison."

The question the writer proposed to answer by this unusual procedure was as to, "Whether our prison system is as unintelligent as I think it is; whether it flies in the face of all common sense and all human nature, as I think it does; and whether, guided by sympathy and experience, we cannot find something far better to take its place, as I believe we can."

The reader finds that Mr. Osborne is able to learn a great deal in one week, and goes far towards answering his question. He secures the confidence of the prisoners in a remarkable degree, is able to convey to us a graphic word picture, not only of the externals of routine prison life, but also the inner workings of his own mind in the midst of this situation.

He indicates carefully that the shortcomings of the present prison system is due, not so much to the intentional harshness of prison keepers, as to the inevitable tendencies of the system itself.

He sets forth the absurdity of certain method of prison discipline that are followed, not because they are essential, but largely because of the natural tendency to follow the customs of the past, instead of originality in discovering better methods.

The unwholesome atmosphere of prison life, both upon the bodies and minds of men, is set forth in the clear manner and excellent diction we should expect from a Harvard graduate.

The book is written, however, by no means merely from the cold intellectual standpoint, but contains heart and life. If there are but few men who can make you feel what they write, Mr. Osborne is evidently one of them.

His book should make a strong impression upon the public, as his fraternal sharing of hardships with the inmates of Auburn Prison made upon them. As a result of his sacrifice of home comforts even for this short time, the prisoners organized a Fellowship League, which has resulted in securing radical changes in the life of the institution. Outdoor recreations and other privileges, previously unknown, have now been secured.

Since Mr. Osborne has been made Warden of Sing Sing Prison, a Golden Rule League has been formed by the inmates there, and the Warden's intimate experience behind the prison bars is bearing fruit in the inauguration of uplifting influences in all departments of the prison.

The recommendation of the "Prison Commission," needless to say, is also of far reaching and practical character.

Chicago.

F. EMORY LYON.

Days of My Years. By Sir Melville L. MacNaghten, C. D. Longman's Green & Co. New York, 1914. Pp. 300. \$3.50.

This unique volume by the late chief of the Criminal Investigation Department, of Scotland Yard, is dedicated to Sir Edward Richard Henry: "The best all-around policeman of the twentieth century, the man to whom London owes more than it knows." "The

days of my years are not yet three score and ten, but they are within an easy decade of the allotted span of man's life. Taken all round those sixty years have been so happy that I would, an I could, live almost every day of every year over again.

"Sam Weller's knowledge of London life was said to have been extensive and peculiar. My experiences have also been of a varied nature, and certain days in many years have been not without incidents, which may be found of some interest to a patient reader, and especially so if his or her tastes lie in the direction of police work in general, and metropolitan murders in particular.

"I never kept a diary nor even possessed a note book; so that in what I write I must trust to my memory and to my memory alone. Therefore I crave indulgence if any inaccuracies are to be found to have crept into some minutes of my days."

These quotations from the preface give us a glimpse of the features of this fascinating book. It is written in literary style; a style that seems almost to grow without training out of a genuine Scotchman's soul, but in this case it is a style that has at once such a native root, and that at the same time reflects on almost every one of the three hundred pages, the classic training of old Eton. The quotations suggest on the other hand the nature of the subject matter, for the book abounds in stories of famous murderers and murders, and the ins and outs of famous detectives pursuing their stealthy calling.

In this volume we find stories of early days at Eton, the start in life of Bengal, Jack the Ripper, Bombs and Their Makers, Motiveless Murders, Blackmailers and Blackmailers, Some Sidelights on the Crippen Case. These are interspersed with descriptions of Days with the Bloodhounds, with Diurnal Oddments and the dinners and farewells with which the "Days of My Years" are closed.

THE MENTAL HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL CHILD. By *J. E. Wallace Wallin*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn. Pp. 450. \$2.00 net.

This volume is made up in large part of papers that have been presented here and there by the author, who is well known throughout our country as an expert in the diagnosis of mentally deficient children. Of particular interest to students of criminology, at present at any rate, are Chapters 8 and 9, in which the author discusses the Binet-Simon Tests, in which he shows in his incisive way some of the shortcomings of the method in its present form. We are interested further in Chapter 18 on "Public School Provisions for Mentally Unusual Children." One of the striking things brought out here is the degree of training that has been attained by mental testers. In a large number of public school systems this presents a rather discouraging picture. It would seem to us that the difficult task of determining the mental condition of youth should be entrusted invariably to men or women of wide experience in dealing with such problems.